NOTE XXII.

ON ORTHRAGORISCUS NASUS, RANZANI.

BY

Dr. Th. W. van LIDTH de JEUDE.

(Plate 5).

In volume XII of this periodical I described a large specimen of *Orthragoriscus* captured on our coast at Ameland in Dec. 1889, and called attention to the differences in the various descriptions to be found of this species of fishes. In the end of November of last year another specimen was washed ashore at Callantsoog on our coast and was, trough the kindness of Dr. P. P. C. Hoek director of the Zoölogical Station at Nieuwediep, presented to the Leyden Museum. Though a large one this specimen is not so gigantic as our former one. The dimensions are as follows:

Distance from tip of snout to extremity of tail.	M 1.23
Distance from root of dorsal fin to root of anal fin, measured at their anterior side	M 0.76
Distance from root of dorsal fin to root of anal fin, measured at their posterior side. . . .	M 0.64
Distance from top of dorsal fin to top of anal fin.	M 1.62
Distance between tip of snout and anterior side of the root of dorsal fin.	M 0.77
Distance between tip of snout and anterior side of the root of anal fin	M 0.87
Distance from tip of upper jaw to anterior side of the root of pectoral fin	M 0.40
Distance from tip of snout to anterior side of the root of pectoral fin	M 0.43
Distance between tip of upper jaw to centre of the eye	M 0.19^5
Distance between tip of snout to centre of the eye.	M 0.22^5

Our specimen is a male and weighed about 90 Kg.

In two points this Orthragoriscus differs from that captured at Ameland viz. 1°. in having a prominent snout or proboscis, wanting in the other specimen; 2°. in the nature of the band between body and caudal fin.

The proboscis protuding above the mouth ends in a strongly developed osseus tubercle and passes into a very decided swell on either side over the eye; just over and a little behind the eye this swell is most prominent, further on it decreases and entirely loses itself a little before the pectoral fin.

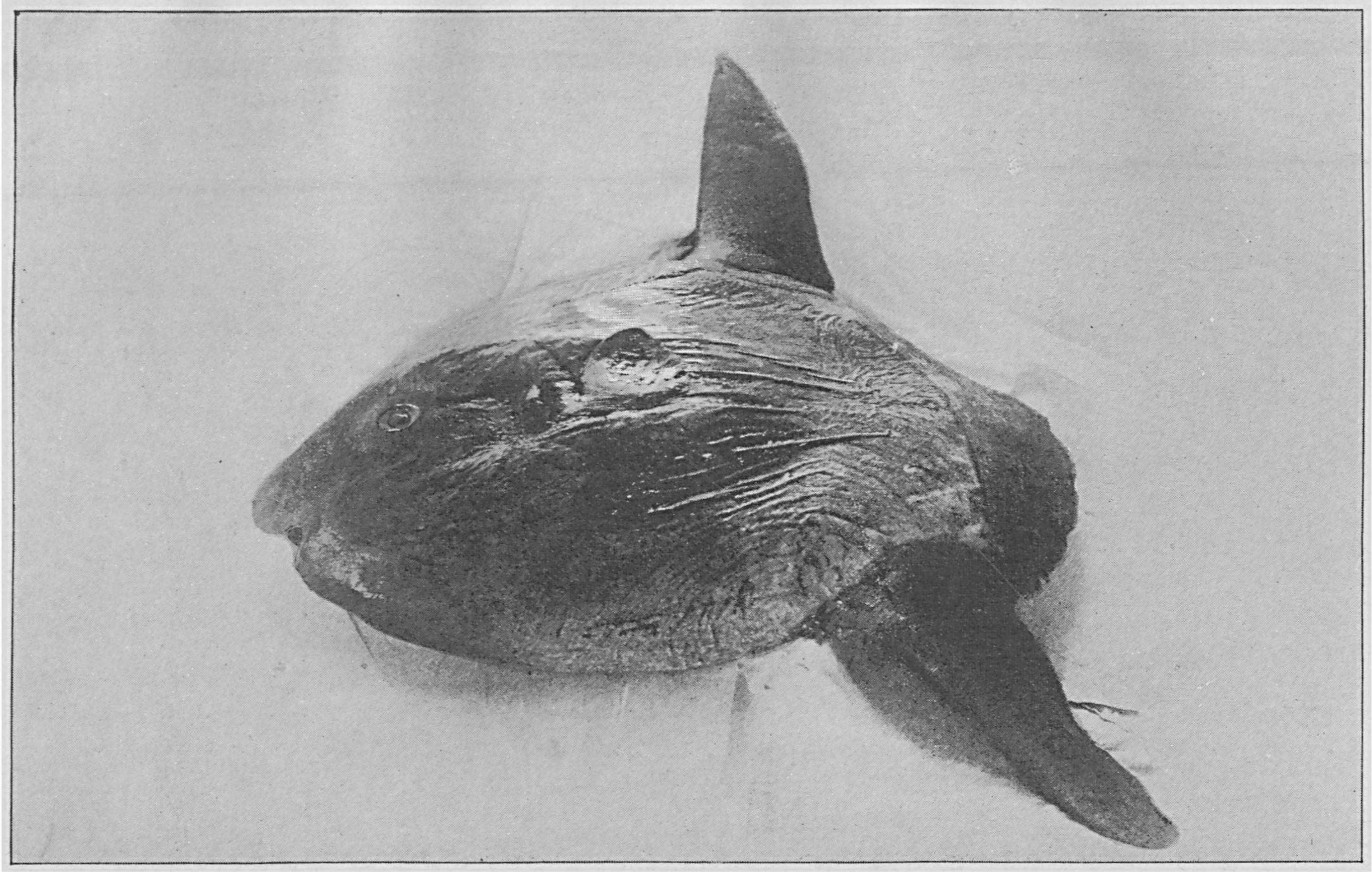
In this way is formed at the back, as it were a crest, extending from just before and over the eye as far as the root of the dorsal fin. Behind the pectoral fin are seen parallel longitudinal folds, the most marked ones pretty near in the middle, running straight on in the direction of the eye. On the animal being skinned, these folds were found to be local swellings of the skin.

As to the band between body and caudal fin, so clearly visible in our Ameland specimen, it is almost invisible in the smaller one from Calantsoog and might even be overlooked. There are no deep grooves to be seen and the skin of the band is all over set with the little pricks caused by the dermal ossifications.

In having a snout, and longitudinal folds behind the pectoral fin as well as in presenting the slight band between body and caudal fin our specimen quite agrees with Harting's *Orthragoriscus ozodura* and Steenstrup's *Mola nasus*. On the score of these characteristics, more fully developed in Note 32 volume XII, I think it better to separate this species from the *Ortragoriscus mola* L., of which our Ameland specimen may be regarded as a representative, and call it *Orthragoriscus nasus* after Ranzani's description of *Diplanchias nasus*.

Our specimen is of a brownish colour, overlaid with a silvery tinge, particularly at the lower parts, and was covered all over with round and elliptical bright spots.

The figure added to this note was made after a photogram taken by Dr. Hoek's care, and may give a sufficient clear idea of the exterior of our fish, expecially of the snout; moreover our specimen is carefully stuffed and preserved in the collections of our Museum.



Orthagoriscus nasus, Ranzani.